



SCA Public Issues Committee MINUTES

May 9, 2018 – 7:00 PM
Renton City Hall
1055 S Grady Way, Renton WA 98057

1. Welcome and Roll Call

PIC Chair Council President Ed Prince, Renton, called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM. 25 cities had representation ([Attachment A](#)). Guests present included Colleen Kelly, Redmond staff; Lyman Howard, Sammamish City Manager; Alex Herzog, Woodinville staff; councilmember Matt Mahoney, Des Moines PIC alternate; council president Angela Birney, Redmond PIC alternate; councilmember Carol Simpson, Newcastle PIC alternate; Jenny Huston, King County Executive Office staff; Doug Levy, Renton consultant; Joyce Nichols, Bellevue staff; Michael Huddleston, King County Council staff; Kelly Rider, King County staff; councilmember Ryan McIrvine, Renton.

2. Public Comment

Chair Prince asked if any member of the public would like to provide any public comment. Seeing none, Chair Prince closed the public comment portion of the meeting.

3. Approval of the April 11, 2018 Minutes

Chair Prince asked if there were any edits to the April 11, 2018 PIC minutes.

Hank Margeson, Redmond, moved, seconded by Bill Boyce, Kent, to approve the April 11, 2018 PIC minutes. There was no discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Chair's Report

Chair Prince reported that he, Director Dawson, and SCA President and Kirkland Mayor Amy Walen recently met with King County Executive Dow Constantine and discussed One Table and that he would provide a report on that meeting under agenda item eight.

5. Executive Director's Report

Deanna Dawson, SCA Executive Director, discussed the SCA Partner Forum on Recycling that took place on March 27, 2018. She noted lessons learned from the forum, including the importance of recyclables being clean, dry, and empty, and the need to keep recycling bins and dumpsters closed to prevent moisture from contaminating the recyclables. She complimented the City of Kenmore for sharing this information in their quarterly newsletter. Dawson noted that SCA will be holding future Partner Forums throughout the year.

Dawson gave an update on a proposed fee increase for the Local Hazardous Waste Management Program and distributed a handout ([Attachment B](#)). The program, which serves all cities in King County with hazardous waste collection, disposal, and other services, is funded through fees on solid waste accounts and sewer services. Fees for the program were last changed in 2012, and the PIC was briefed on a preliminary fee proposal in February 2018.

Since February, the size of the proposed fee increase and the duration have been reduced substantially to a two-year fee period with an increase of 3.5 percent each year. This revised fee proposal was developed by the program's Management Coordination Committee, based on SCA member and other stakeholder feedback. The proposal will next be taken up by the Board of Health, which has fee-setting authority. Action is anticipated in June.

Dawson highlighted an opportunity for senior centers to apply for \$3.7 million in one-time funding available countywide through the new Veterans, Seniors, and Human Services Levy. A request for qualifications has been distributed to senior centers. Community centers that provide significant senior specific programming are also eligible. Award size will depend on the number of agencies that apply, but awards are anticipated to be \$55,000 or more. The RFQ closes on June 7. Another funding round is anticipated this fall for 2019 levy funding.

6. Domestic Violence Initiative Appointment

PIC Nominating Committee Chair Leanne Guier reported that the PIC Nominating Committee met prior to the PIC meeting on May 9, 2018, and recommended appointing current King County Domestic Violence Initiative Regional Task Force alternate Councilmember Traci Buxton, Des Moines, to fill the vacant member seat on the Task Force and Councilmember Anthony Wright, Enumclaw, to the alternate position.

Leanne Guier moved, seconded by Hank Margeson, to recommend to the SCA Board of Directors the appointment of Councilmember Traci Buxton, Des Moines, to the Member seat and Councilmember Anthony Wright, Enumclaw, to the Alternate seat on the King County Domestic Violence Initiative Task Force. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

7. Medic One/Emergency Medical Services Levy

SCA Senior Policy Analyst Brian Parry reported on the Medic One/Emergency Medical Services levy (EMS levy) renewal planning process. The current EMS levy will expire at the end of 2019 and an EMS Advisory Task Force was convened in January to plan for reauthorization of the levy for 2020-2025. Placing the Medic One/EMS levy on the ballot for renewal will require approval by the legislative authority of at least 75% of cities in King County with populations exceeding 50,000 (or 9 of the 11 such cities in King County) and the King County Council. Approval of the levy requires an affirmative vote from a simple majority of voters. Per an interlocal agreement with King County, Seattle receives all Medic One/EMS levy funds raised within its boundaries. Funds raised outside of Seattle, approximately \$75 million annually under the current levy, are placed in the King County EMS fund and managed regionally by the King County EMS Division.

The EMS levy fully funds the 26 paramedic units in King County (Advanced Life Support, or ALS), allocates funding local fire departments for a portion of the first responder EMS services they provide (Basic Life Support, or BLS), and supports regional services to manage and improve the overall system.

Parry said subcommittees of the EMS Advisory Task Force have been meeting regularly and working to analyze trends in demand for service, system needs, and cost to develop the strategic plan and proposed levy. The initial recommendations from these subcommittees will

be presented to the full Task Force at its next meeting on May 30. Parry said that important factors that will influence the total cost of the levy plan include: the region's fast growing and aging population, both of which correlate strongly with increased need for service; increased costs for equipment, including rising medication costs; and any new services that may be added.

Parry said the EMS Task Force and its subcommittees are scheduled to continue meeting throughout 2018 to develop the strategic plan and levy for renewal proposal. More detailed information about potential service changes and cost estimates are being prepared by each subcommittee in preparation for the full Task Force meeting on May 30. Future discussion at PIC is anticipated as the preliminary recommendations from each subcommittee are further developed for consideration by the full Task Force at its July 31 meeting.

Mayor Sean Kelly, Maple Valley, asked whether any new programs were being discussed for inclusion in the next levy. Parry said that one of the most significant new services being considered by the Task Force is the expansion of Mobile Integrated Healthcare (MIH) program coverage to the full county. During the current levy period, several fire agencies have initiated pilot programs dedicated to MIH. Parry said that MIH programs vary in scope, but are generally designed to provide agencies with tools to address patient needs that go beyond the immediate response to a call for service or delivery of a patient to the emergency room. This may include resources such as a point of contact EMT's can engage to coordinate with social service and medical providers to address the underlying causes leading to frequent calls for emergency service. The goal is to provide better overall care and reduce the number of service requests for non-life-threatening injury or illness. Parry said local fire agencies operating MIH units have expressed support for expanding access and further coordinating MIH services on a regional basis as part of the levy renewal. He said those agencies identified several benefits of MIH programs, including: improved patient care, diversion of non-emergency calls from the emergency response system, and better utilization EMT resources.

Councilmember Toby Nixon, Kirkland, said that he is interested in seeing what the proposed levy rate may be and that it would be good if rising property values would allow the rate to be reduced in order to get support from voters.

Councilmember Hank Margeson, Redmond, said that the region's Advanced Life Support and Basic Life Support services are world-renowned for their quality, and that he would like to see the Task Force highlight how well the system is working as part of its strategic plan. He encouraged members to speak with first responders in their communities, and that they would be able to share stories that highlight the benefits of MIH programs in addressing the healthcare needs of patients, and in particular those who may otherwise rely on frequent EMS system use.

8. One Table

Ellie Wilson-Jones, SCA Senior Policy Analyst, reported on One Table, the regional initiative launched in January by King County Executive Dow Constantine, Mayor Nancy Backus, Auburn, and Mayor Jenny Durkan, Seattle, to develop strategies to prevent homelessness. The initiative, which was also the subject of the March and April pre-PIC workshops, is focused on root causes

of homelessness within the behavioral health, criminal justice, and child welfare systems, and from the lack of affordable housing and employment opportunity. In addition to Mayor Backus, SCA cities are represented on One Table by Council President Ed Prince, Renton; Mayor John Chelminiak, Bellevue; Mayor Dana Ralph, Kent; and Mayor Amy Walen, Kirkland. Wilson-Jones noted that six draft recommendations have been developed through the One Table process, as listed on [page 22 of the May PIC Packet](#). The One Table process has been extended from its original timeline and is ongoing.

Wilson-Jones noted two other recent developments related to addressing the homelessness crisis. The King County Auditor's Office released a performance audit May 1, "[Homeless Crisis Demands Unified, Accountable, Dynamic Regional Response](#)," which included 12 recommendations addressing our regional homeless response system. Additionally, on May 3, King County Executive Dow Constantine and Mayor Durkan [announced](#) a [Memorandum of Understanding](#) that outlines immediate actions their jurisdictions will take to better coordinate, and steps they will taking with regional partners to review the current system governing homeless services.

Deanna Dawson, SCA Executive Director, reported on a meeting with King County Executive Dow Constantine held prior to the PIC meeting. The meeting included PIC Chair Ed Prince, and Mayor Amy Walen, Kirkland, both of whom serve as One Table members. The discussion focused on One Table and three ways in which the effort is distinguishable from other past and ongoing initiatives. First, government representatives are joined by representatives for business and philanthropy, who are being engaged in a unique way, and may bring new resources toward implementation. Second, One Table is a regionally focused initiative, not centered on Seattle. Third, One Table is focusing on the root causes of homelessness rather than the crisis response system, which serves those who are already homeless. At the same time, however, there's also recognition that more must be done to help people currently in crisis. Dawson noted that the timeline for the One Table process has been extended and is being influenced by a number of factors, including Seattle's consideration of head tax legislation, and the need to assess how resources are currently being spent. She noted that One Table Co-Chair Mayor Nancy Backus, Auburn, has advocated for ensuring that the process not be rushed to meet an artificial deadline. Dawson concluded by speaking to the difficulty of solving this challenge, and invited PIC member feedback on the draft recommendations of One Table and ideas for moving the needle on homelessness.

Chair Prince reported that the meeting with the Executive provided more clarity about the One Table effort and suggested a positive direction. There was recognition that contributions will be needed from business and philanthropy and that government and elected leaders will not be able to carry forward the work alone. Prince also spoke to the need to ensure current resources are being well spent, as suggested by the recent King County Auditor's Office report, which recommends steps be taken to better assess and coordinate ongoing efforts to address homelessness. Prince noted that there appears to be consensus that more needs to be done to show how current resources are being used, and how effectively. He said residents are asking for and deserve to have more transparency and accountability.

Council President Bill Boyce, Kent, spoke to the urgency of solving the problem of homelessness before it further impacts the region. Boyce spoke in support of the draft One Table recommendations and to the need to distinguish what is working well from what is less effective and to focus on what can be successful.

Council President Tola Marts, Issaquah, spoke to his city's ongoing work to address homelessness, including the city's historical openness to tent cities. Marts urged consideration of practical next steps, rather than setting, and getting roadblocked by, goals that are too expensive to be achievable. Marts encouraged review of successful work done in other regions, and particularly in other West Coast cities with high housing costs. Dawson noted that philanthropic leaders have been reviewing models for collective impact and governance from other jurisdictions.

Deputy Mayor Austin Bell, Burien, expressed support for taking a regional approach with the One Table effort. Referencing a draft list of strategies generated by One Table Community Action Workgroups beginning on [page 26 of the May PIC Packet](#), Bell noted that some are still downstream, rather than upstream approaches that will address the causes of homelessness.

Councilmember Susan Boundy-Sanders, Woodinville, spoke to the work being done by service providers currently and asked how they are being engaged. Dawson noted that service providers are participating in One Table's Community Action Workgroups (*Note: The full list of One Table members is available [here](#).*) Speaking to models to be considered for adoption locally, Boundy-Sanders noted that Los Angeles has been successful in reducing veterans' homelessness and also highlighted the Belgium-based model used by Plymouth Healing Communities, for which Boundy-Sanders is a board member.

Councilmember Anthony Wright, Enumclaw, suggested improving access to jobs in the building trades as a part of the solution. He encouraged partnering with shipyards and exploring apprenticeship opportunities. Wright spoke to the work underway to assist people experiencing homelessness in Enumclaw, including voucher programs for adults and school-based food programs for children. He said distributing food to children is more challenging over the summer, when kids are out of school, because people must have transportation to access services.

Councilmember Martin Moore, Federal Way, noted the work of Federal Way's task force on homelessness and spoke to work done in Albuquerque to link people experiencing homelessness with employment opportunities. Federal Way is studying work done by The REACH Center in Tacoma to serve young people and is teaming up with the Multi-Service Center to jumpstart local solutions. Moore spoke to the high number of children experiencing homelessness, the need to learn from people with lived experience, and the importance of transportation needs and employment opportunities. Moore concluded by expressing appreciation that Mayor Backus is serving as a One Table Co-Chair and that South King County is engaged in this work. Dawson noted that people who have experienced homelessness are also participating in One Table and the development of recommendations.

Councilmember Hank Margeson, Redmond, reported that the Redmond City Council received an update from the city's homeless outreach program staff on May 8. The program has been in place for roughly two years and has been successful in working with people experiencing

homelessness and connecting them with housing and services. Margeson noted the importance of early engagement, with efforts that reach people early being the most successful. Margeson welcomed the King County's Auditor's Office recommendation that the region assess ongoing investments, so that it can ensure further funding does not go toward something that will ultimately be unsuccessful. He noted support for the prevention-oriented focus of One Table, and for the refinements made to the draft recommendations.

9. Sewer Rate and Capacity Charge Proposal

SCA Policy Analyst Cynthia Foley reported that the King County Executive has transmitted [Proposed Ordinance 2018-0231](#) setting the sewer rate and capacity charge for 2019 and 2020. Foley reported that the sewer rate supports the operating and capital expenses of the King County Wastewater Treatment Division (WTD) and is charged to customers through their local sewer agency. The proposed ordinance would set the 2019 monthly sewer rate at \$45.33 per residential customer per month, which is a 2.5 percent increase over the 2017-2018 rate.

Foley stated that the 2019 WTD expenses are projected to increase 7.9 percent over the 2018 adopted budget. Major drivers include staffing to support new construction and facilities, capacity improvements, system planning, upgrading asset management capabilities, and earthquake resiliency.

Foley reported that the capacity charge covers the cost of new wastewater connections, and is billed to customers directly by King County. The Proposed 2019 rate is \$64.50, which is a three percent increase over the 2018 rate.

Foley stated that the King County Council is authorized to set the county sewer rate and the capacity charge. Legislation setting the rate and capacity charge will be reviewed by the King County Council Budget and Fiscal Management Committee before final adoption by the full Council.

Foley reported that this topic came to the County Budget and Fiscal management committee earlier in the day and action was deferred to a later date.

Councilmember Hank Margeson, Redmond, asked whether projects that increase sewer capacity were to be funded as part of the rate increase or capacity charge. Foley noted that [Attachment B on page 42 in the PIC Packet](#) highlights major projects in the capital budget.

Chair Prince asked whether the proposed increase would keep up with projected costs, or if a more substantial rate increase might be proposed in the future. Foley stated that projections show an average 3 percent increase per year for the next several years.

Councilmember Toby Nixon, Kirkland, said that a letter from the Metropolitan Water Pollution Abatement Advisory Committee (MWPAAC) expressed concern that the increase should be 3 percent in 2019 to provide enough funding to maintain a steady rate. Foley said that a follow-up letter from MWPAAC expressed support for maintaining rate stability and affordability over time. The letters, dated March 30, 2018 ([Attachment C](#)) and April 25, 2018 ([Attachment D](#)).

10. Future Levies and Ballot Measures in King County

SCA Senior Policy Analyst Brian Parry reported on upcoming levies and ballot measures in King County and results from the April 24, 2018 election. Kent Proposition A, a proposed increase in utility taxes to fund public safety, failed with 57 percent voting against; Tahoma School District operations levy was approved with 64 percent voting in favor; Duvall Fire Proposition 1, construction bonds, received more than 59 percent support but failed to reach the required 60 percent for passage; and Puget Sound Regional Fire (serving Kent, Covington, and SeaTac) Proposition 1 property tax levy failed with 57 percent voting against.

Councilmember James McNeal, Bothell, said that the city of Bothell is developing a police and fire levy and provided details on potential costs.

Councilmember Michelle Hogg, Duvall, noted that Duvall Fire Proposition 1 failed by just eleven votes.

11. Potential Upcoming SCA Issues

SCA Executive Director Deanna Dawson reported on workshops and trainings requested by PIC for 2018. Based on feedback from PIC, pre-PIC workshops and trainings for the remainder of the year will be: Jurassic Parliament in June; PSRC Vision 2050 in July; Open Public Meetings Act (OPMA) in September; Emergency Management in October; and Social Media in November. There will not be Pre-PIC workshops in August or December. Dawson noted that PIC generally does not meet in August.

12. Informational Item

Chair Prince noted an informational item in the PIC packet on the Medicaid Transformation Project.

13. Upcoming Events

Chair Prince reported that the next SCA Networking Dinner will be held on Wednesday, May 30, 2018, and will feature Washington State Attorney General Bob Ferguson. The dinner will be held at the Inglewood Golf & Country Club in Kenmore. The next PIC meeting and pre-PIC workshop will be held on Wednesday, June 13, at Renton City Hall.

14. For the Good of the Order

Chair Prince asked if PIC members had anything to report for Good of the Order.

Deputy Mayor Austin Bell, Burien, said that the Burien city council recently held a community meeting following the fatal shooting of two local teenagers. He said the meeting was organized to encourage dialogue among community members by breaking into small groups to share information and engage in mutual healing. He said it was a successful model, and that the city is likely to bring people together in similar ways in the future to address important issues.

Chair Prince highlighted the Did You Know item in the PIC packet on affordable housing.

15. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 8:22 PM.

**Public Issues Committee Meeting
May 9, 2018**

City	Representative	Alternate
Algona	Dave Hill	Bill Thomas
Auburn	Nancy Backus	John Holman
Beaux Arts Village	Tom Stowe	Aletha Howes
Bellevue	John Stokes	Janice Zahn
Black Diamond	Janie Edelman	Tamie Deady
Bothell	James McNeal	Davina Duerr
Burien	Austin Bell	Nancy Tosta
Carnation	Dustin Green	Kim Lisk
Clyde Hill	Barre Seibert	George Martin
Covington	Fran Hollums	Joseph Cimaomo, Jr.
Des Moines	Traci Buxton	Matt Mahoney
Duvall	Michelle Hogg	Jennifer Knaplund
Enumclaw	Anthony Wright	Mike Sando
Federal Way	Lydia Assefa-Dawson	Martin Moore
Hunts Point	Joseph Sabey	
Issaquah	Tola Marts	Chris Reh
Kenmore	David Baker	Nigel Herbig
Kent	Bill Boyce	Toni Troutner
Kirkland	Toby Nixon	Jay Arnold
Lake Forest Park	Catherine Stanford	Tom French
Maple Valley	Sean Kelly	Linda Johnson
Medina	Sheree Wen	Alex Morcos
Mercer Island	Benson Wong	Tom Acker
Milton	Shanna Styron Sherrell	Mary Tompkins
Newcastle	Allen Dauterman	Carol Simpson
Normandy Park	Sue-Ann Hohimer	Jonathan Chicquette
North Bend	Ross Loudenback	Jonathan Rosen
Pacific	Leanne Guier	David Storaasli
Redmond	Hank Margeson	Angela Birney
Renton	Ed Prince	Armondo Pavone
Sammamish	Christie Malchow	Pam Stuart
SeaTac	Erin Sitterley	Pam Fernald
Shoreline	Chris Roberts	Keith Scully
Skykomish	Henry Sladek	
Snoqualmie	Katherine Ross	Matt Larson
Tukwila	Kate Kruller	Zac Idan
Woodinville	Bernie Talmas	Susan Boundy-Sanders
Yarrow Point	Dicker Cahill	
SCA	Deanna Dawson Brian Parry Cynthia Foley	Ellie Wilson-Jones Caitlin Magee

Voting members are highlighted in gray. Cities represented are **bolded**.



Local Hazardous Waste Management Program

Program Funding and Services April 20, 2018

About LHWMP

The Local Hazardous Waste Management Program (LHWMP) provides services to the 2.1 million residents and 60,000 businesses in King County.

The Program provides a range of residential and business services to reduce exposure to toxic materials. Services include collection and disposal, technical assistance, incentives, prevention programs and policy initiatives.

LHWMP is a regional partnership established to protect public health and the environment. The Program is guided by the multi-jurisdictional Management Coordination Committee (MCC) and is recognized as the governing entity by the Washington State Department of Ecology.



Protecting Public Health
and the Environment

7,576 Tons of Hazardous Materials was collected, over the past five years, from residents and small quantity businesses at collection facilities and traveling Wastemobile events.

Program Funding

LHWMP is funded through small surcharges on solid waste and wastewater services. Fees are set by the King County Board of Health. The fees were last increased in 2012, and have not been adjusted for inflation since then. The total cost for an average single-family residence is approximately \$1.10/mo.

Increased Demand for Services

As the number of people living in King County continues to grow in number and diversity, there is also an increased demand for services. With the constant influx of new chemicals and products and the cost of inflation, the cost of providing services continues to increase.

Proposed Rate Adjustment

A rate adjustment is proposed for 2019-20. This is needed for inflation-related cost increases, so that the Program can continue providing services at current levels. The rate proposal will be submitted to the King County Board of Health this spring. If the proposal is adopted by the Board of Health, changes would take effect in early 2019. The MCC revised the rate adjustment proposal in April, 2018. The proposal shown below differs from an earlier proposal in both size and duration.

LOCAL HAZARDOUS WASTE FEE SCHEDULE

CURRENT AND PROPOSED FEES	2018	2019	2020
	Current Rate (dollars)	Proposed Rate (dollars)	
WASTEWATER FEE (per 1 million gallons)	45.79	47.39	49.05
TRANSFER STATION / LANDFILL FEE			
Private Vehicle (per trip)	1.81	1.87	1.94
Commercial Vehicle (per ton)	4.73	4.90	5.07
SOLID WASTE FEE			
Single-Family Residential (curbside/mo)	0.84	0.87	0.90
Commercial Cart (<0.48 cu. yds./mo)	1.46	1.51	1.56
Commercial Dumpster (>0.48 to <10 cu. yds./mo)	12.01	12.43	12.87
Commercial Roll-Off (>10 cu. yds/mo)	46.15	47.77	49.44
Percent Annual Increase	0.00%	3.50%	3.50%

LHWMP Program Partners

King County Solid Waste Division, King County Water and Land Resources Division, Public Health – Seattle & King County, Seattle Public Utilities, the Sound Cities Association, and the following cities, towns and tribes: Algona, Auburn, Beaux Arts Village, Bellevue, Black Diamond, Bothell, Burien, Carnation, Clyde Hill, Covington, Des Moines, Duvall, Enumclaw, Federal Way, Hunts Point, Issaquah, Kenmore, Kent, Kirkland, Lake Forest Park, Maple Valley, Medina, Mercer Island, Muckleshoot Tribe, Newcastle, Normandy Park, North Bend, Pacific, Redmond, Renton, Sammamish, SeaTac, Shoreline, Skykomish, Snoqualmie, Snoqualmie Tribe, Tukwila, Woodinville, Yarrow Point

Prevention

Technical Assistance

On-site evaluations help businesses meet regulatory requirements and manage hazardous materials properly. Businesses receive information on using less toxic chemicals and changes in practices or equipment that can reduce the use and environmental impacts of more toxic products and materials.

Reducing Risks at Home

Education and outreach to residents increases awareness of the hazardous materials often found in the home. To help keep families safe and protect the environment, residents receive information on how to know what chemicals are in the products they use, how to choose less toxic products and safe storage and disposal.

Customer Service Center

Residents and businesses can talk directly to a hazardous waste specialist to ask questions about hazardous materials, how to dispose of what is no longer needed and information on less toxic alternatives. The call center maintains three customer service lines and can respond in multiple languages to provide information.

357,676 Families Reached

Education and outreach to reduce exposure risks to hazardous materials over the past five years.

275,966 Residents

Visited a collection facility or Wastemobile to dispose of hazardous materials over the past five years.

Collection and Disposal

Disposal services at collection facilities, a traveling Wastemobile and city and tribal collection events provide convenient, safe disposal of unwanted hazardous materials and hazardous wastes for all residents and for businesses that generate small quantities of hazardous waste.

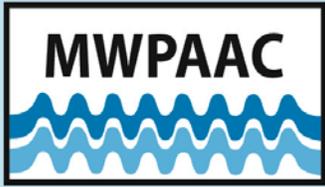


Policy

LHWMP collaborates with state and local agencies, non-governmental organizations, communities and industry to affect change in the production, use and disposal of hazardous materials to help ensure chemicals and products are safe for people and the environment. Current areas of focus include safer alternatives and project stewardship.

LHWMP Policy Initiatives

- * Safer Alternative Strategies
- * Secure Medicine Return
- * Mercury-Containing Lights
- * Mercury Thermostats
- * Dental Mercury Waste Disposal
- * WA Occupational Lead Standards



Metropolitan Water Pollution Abatement Advisory Committee

King Street Center, 201 South Jackson Street, MS KSC-NR-0508
Seattle, WA 98104 206-477-4435

MEMBERS:

- Alderwood Water and Wastewater District*
- City of Algona*
- City of Auburn*
- City of Bellevue*
- City of Black Diamond*
- City of Bothell*
- City of Brier*
- City of Carnation*
- Cedar River Water and Sewer District*
- Coal Creek Utility District*
- Cross Valley Water District*
- Highlands Sewer District*
- City of Issaquah*
- City of Kent*
- City of Kirkland*
- City of Lake Forest Park*
- Lakehaven Water and Sewer District*
- City of Mercer Island*
- Midway Sewer District*
- Northeast Sammamish Sewer District*
- Northshore Utility District*
- Olympic View Water and Sewer District*
- City of Pacific*
- City of Redmond*
- City of Renton*
- Ronald Wastewater District*
- Sammamish Plateau Water and Sewer District*
- City of Seattle*
- Skyway Water and Sewer District*
- Soos Creek Water and Sewer District*
- Southwest Suburban Sewer District*
- City of Tukwila*
- Valley View Sewer District*
- Vashon Sewer District*
- Woodinville Water District*

March 30, 2018

The Honorable Dow Constantine
King County Executive
401 5th Ave., Suite 800
Seattle, WA 98104

SUBJECT: Wastewater Treatment Division Rate Recommendation

Dear Executive Constantine:

The Metropolitan Water Pollution Abatement Advisory Committee (MWWPAAC) has reviewed the Wastewater Treatment Division’s (WTD) rate proposal for 2019, and its projected rate forecast for 2020-2024. Based on that review, we do not support the proposed 2019-2020 rate of \$45.33, a 2.5 percent increase. We have concerns that an increase lower than an average annual rate of 3 percent discussed by the MWWPAAC Debt Review Committee will result in the need for larger than projected rate increases in the future. Future rate stability and maintaining affordable rates are always a concern of this committee. We also wish to highlight several topics that will require ongoing review by MWWPAAC, and which could affect our recommendation regarding WTD rates in 2020 and beyond. These are discussed below.

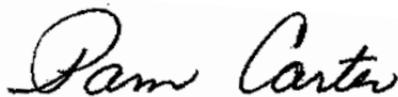
- **Brightwater Tunneling Contractor Settlement**
 - WTD received a settlement of approximately \$144 million as the result of a contract dispute with contractors drilling an outfall tunnel during the final phases of Brightwater construction. This money had previously been held in trust until conclusion of the litigation, in which WTD prevailed. The original expenditures related to this settlement were made from WTD’s Capital Improvement Fund and were likely debt funded. As such, MWWPAAC respectfully requests that WTD use the money, in total, for future capital needs, avoiding any diversion to cover operating or other expenses not directly related to system improvement.
- **Debt Management**
 - MWWPAAC anticipates continued commitment to the plan to reduce outstanding debt through 2030 via increased cash financing. This plan, presented in the 2017 Rate Recommendation, was in line with the MWWPAAC debt review recommendation. Given the many capital-intensive projects in WTD’s near-term future, fiscal prudence will help maintain strong credit ratings, low interest rates, and provide flexibility for managing the future capital program. Indeed, WTD’s 2017 credit rating was increased by Moody’s, citing “strengthened financial position, including higher debt service coverage.”

The Honorable Dow Constantine
March 30, 2018
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- **WTD Systemwide Plan**
 - As the County continues to develop its Systemwide Plan, MWPAAC remains concerned that current rate projections do not include sufficient funding to address these future needs. This may result in artificially low rates in the current rate setting cycle and much larger rate increases in the future as WTD is forced to catch-up with the actual costs of the plan. MWPAAC members prefer steady, manageable rate increases compared to the double-digit increases incurred during the days of Brightwater construction.
 - MWPAAC requests that its members have a voice in prioritizing recommendations for the Systemwide Plan. MWPAAC members have intimate knowledge of their local systems and are thus able to provide critical insight to assist WTD with identifying needs that should be included in the plan. The knowledge members bring may help to narrow the recommendations, which in turn can help keep the plan more affordable.
 - MWPAAC suggests that WTD consider developing an infrastructure investment strategy based on the Systemwide Plan that is realistic and affordable within the current rate environment as opposed to a lengthy list of projects that will place an unreasonable additional burden on MWPAAC ratepayers.
- **Succession Planning**
 - MWPAAC would also like to note its support of WTD's approach towards succession planning. Proactively addressing an aging workforce will help prevent interruptions to service and assist in maintaining the regional infrastructure.

Reflecting over the past year, MWPAAC makes these recommendations with a continued commitment to a partnership with WTD and the County for effective wastewater management. We remain appreciative of WTD's efforts to give MWPAAC a meaningful role and look forward to a continued collaborative relationship based on the recommendations in this letter.

Sincerely,



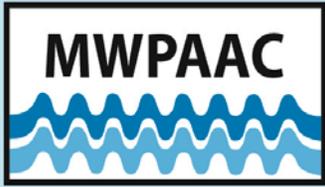
Pamela Carter
MWPAAC Chair

cc: MWPAAC Members
Christie True, Director, Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP)
Mark Isaacson, Division Director, Wastewater Treatment Division, DNRP

Metropolitan Water Pollution Abatement Advisory Committee

Attachment D to the May 9, 2018 PIC Minutes

King Street Center, 201 South Jackson Street, MS KSC-NR-0508
Seattle, WA 98104 206-477-4435



MEMBERS:

*Alderwood Water and
Wastewater District*

City of Algona

City of Auburn

City of Bellevue

City of Black Diamond

City of Bothell

City of Brier

City of Carnation

Cedar River Water and Sewer District

Coal Creek Utility District

Cross Valley Water District

Highlands Sewer District

City of Issaquah

City of Kent

City of Kirkland

City of Lake Forest Park

Lakehaven Water and Sewer District

City of Mercer Island

Midway Sewer District

Northeast Sammamish Sewer District

Northshore Utility District

Olympic View Water and Sewer District

City of Pacific

City of Redmond

City of Renton

Ronald Wastewater District

*Sammamish Plateau Water and
Sewer District*

City of Seattle

Skyway Water and Sewer District

Soos Creek Water and Sewer District

Southwest Suburban Sewer District

City of Tukwila

Valley View Sewer District

Vashon Sewer District

Woodinville Water District

April 25, 2018

The Honorable Joe McDermott
Chair, King County Council
Room 1200
C O U R T H O U S E

SUBJECT: King County Executive Rate Proposal

Dear Councilmember McDermott:

The Metropolitan Water Pollution Abatement Advisory Committee (MWWPAAC) has reviewed Executive Constantine's rate proposal for 2019, and its projected rate forecast for 2020-2024. MWWPAAC continues to track the work of the Debt Review Committee and is supportive of current and future rate increases that are in line with those recommendations. While this rate proposal generally reflects that guidance, future rate stability and maintenance of affordable rates remain a concern of this committee. Highlighted below are several topics that will require ongoing review by MWWPAAC. These could affect our recommendation regarding the Wastewater Treatment Division (WTD) rates in 2020 and beyond.

- **Brightwater Tunneling Contractor Settlement**
 - WTD received a settlement of approximately \$144 million as the result of a contract dispute with contractors drilling an outfall tunnel during the final phases of Brightwater construction. This money had previously been held in trust until conclusion of the litigation, in which WTD prevailed. The original expenditures related to this settlement were made from WTD's Capital Improvement Fund and were likely debt funded. As such, MWWPAAC respectfully requests that WTD use the money, in total, for future capital needs, avoiding any diversion to cover operating or other expenses not directly related to system improvement.
- **Debt Management**
 - MWWPAAC anticipates continued commitment to the plan to reduce outstanding debt through 2030 via increased cash financing. This plan, presented in the 2017 Rate Recommendation, was in line with the MWWPAAC debt review recommendation. Given the many capital-intensive projects in WTD's near-term future, fiscal prudence will help maintain strong credit ratings, low interest rates, and provide flexibility for managing the future capital program. Indeed, WTD's 2017 credit rating was increased by Moody's, citing "strengthened financial position, including higher debt service coverage."

- **WTD Systemwide Plan**
 - As the County continues to develop its Systemwide Plan, MWPAAC remains concerned that current rate projections do not include sufficient funding to address these future needs. This may result in artificially low rates in the current rate setting cycle and much larger rate increases in the future as WTD is forced to catch-up with the actual costs of the plan. MWPAAC members prefer steady, manageable rate increases compared to the double-digit increases incurred during the days of Brightwater construction.
 - MWPAAC requests that its members have a voice in prioritizing recommendations for the Systemwide Plan. MWPAAC members have intimate knowledge of their local systems and are thus able to provide critical insight to assist WTD with identifying needs that should be included in the plan. The knowledge members bring may help to narrow the recommendations, which in turn can help keep the plan more affordable.
 - MWPAAC suggests that WTD consider developing an infrastructure investment strategy based on the Systemwide Plan that is realistic and affordable within the current rate environment as opposed to a lengthy list of projects that will place an unreasonable additional burden on MWPAAC ratepayers.
- **Succession Planning**
 - MWPAAC would also like to note its support of WTD's approach towards succession planning. Proactively addressing an aging workforce will help prevent interruptions to service and assist in maintaining the regional infrastructure.

Reflecting over the past year, MWPAAC makes these recommendations with a continued commitment to a partnership with WTD and the County for effective wastewater management. We remain appreciative of WTD's efforts to give MWPAAC a meaningful role and look forward to a continued collaborative relationship based on the recommendations in this letter.

Sincerely,



Pamela Carter
MWPAAC Chair

cc: King County Councilmembers
Regional Water Quality Committee members
MWPAAC Members
Christie True, Director, Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP)
Mark Isaacson, Division Director, Wastewater Treatment Division, DNRP